

OF INTEREST TO SECRETARIES

One of our local secretaries, who has been secretary of his association since its formation in 1915, has just written the Central secretary on a point which will be of great interest to other local secretaries in our association. He gives a number of the duties expected of him, and asks what is the opinion of the association with regard to the payment of secretaries. He goes on to say that he does not wish to appear mercenary, but on the contrary is very anxious to support the cause in every way. He is practically alone on the farm, and does not know whether the members ought to expect him to write out a number of invitations to a wheat drive and to carry out similar duties without any pay. He wishes to know whether it would be right to ask for a salary, and if so, what is the usual price. He thinks that \$25 a year would be a reasonable amount for this work. In reply to this letter the Central secretary writes as follows:—

Replying to your letter of the 16 inst. I have to state that there is no regular practice or established rule with regard to remunerating local secretaries. I think that most locals do pay their secretary something, but the amount of remuneration must depend very largely upon the extent of the activities of the local. The amount which you suggest certainly does not appear unreasonable, but this is a matter which is entirely in the hands of the local itself, and I would not care to express an opinion except to state that the whole Grain Growers' movement in this western country has been built up very largely on voluntary effort by men who have been moved rather by their desire to better conditions than by any thought of personal gain. Yet on the other hand I do not believe that it makes for the best permanent interest of our people that they should be encouraged to take service without paying for it. The true spirit of co-operation demands just as fully that we must pay for what we get as it demands that we shall refuse to pay for what we do not get.—J. B. Musselman.

STATEMENT RE LABOR PROBLEM

The following resolution was recently adopted by the Vidora G.G.A. and forwarded for publication:—

"Whereas, the labor problem in agricultural districts is already acute, so that in many localities the question as to whether it will be possible to plant the acreage already prepared is of nearer import than that of increasing production, but further, since this condition will steadily become more serious, in that two or three men are required in harvest to take care of the same acreage that one man can handle in seeding;

"Believing that the agricultural communities have already furnished recruits on a basis of population far in excess of the urban districts, and believing further, what has been repeatedly expressed by the leading men in all the allied nations, that the greatest need for the successful prosecution of the war is an ample and ever increasing supply of foodstuffs, which supply will be materially reduced if the labor supply be further depleted.

"It would appear to be a measure of national importance that any further call on man power be inoperative in agricultural districts, until those in authority are fully in touch with these conditions. Further be it understood that this is in no sense meant for a criticism of the policy of conscription, or as an utterance lacking in patriotism or loyalty. Rather indeed is it evidence of our anxiety to do to the utmost our allotted part for the furtherance of the aims of our country and her Allies, and we should welcome a visit of investigation from a representative of the government who could familiarize himself at first hand with the state of things indicated.

"LEWIS JOHN HARVEY,
"Vidora G.G.A." "Sec.-Treas.

INSURANCE AGENTS TO ASSIST

At a convention of the agents of one of our large life insurance companies, held in the King George Hotel, Saskatoon, on Friday, March 8, the following resolution was passed unanimously: "That, while realising the import-

ance of insurance to the people of this province and the absolute necessity that every man should have the opportunity to protect his family and business interests in this way, believe that during the seeding and harvest of this year, agents of this company should do all in their power to assist the farmers in the community in which they may be placed."

Note.—The above resolution is a good illustration of the attitude of all the best elements of the western public on the question of greater production. The agents are to be commended for their action, and it is to be hoped that all insurance agents will so far as possible follow their example. There are many other classes of people who might emulate the insurance men with great good to the cause.

Why not release all the preachers during the seeding? Society has had sufficient preaching to carry it over a month or two without serious backsliding. Give the preachers an opportunity to help for a while to feed the hungry mouths. It may scarcely be religion but it is Christianity.

Another class that should be released for production is the real estate men. A large percentage of the real estate men are not only not required for any necessary service to the public, but are a positive menace to production, in that they constitute an actual obstacle between the person who desires to sell and the person desiring to purchase. Instance after instance could be cited where these so-called real estate agents have been speculators of the lowest order masquerading under the name of "agent." I personally know of one instance where an owner was offering a farm at \$10,000 and the so-called agent endeavoring to sell the same for \$12,000 instead of adding a reasonable agent's commission. Several highly respectable real estate agents were involved in this attempt at what I should call fraud, nor is this by any means an isolated case. The aversion of these agents is the cause of that land being prairie still instead of being in shape to raise a few thousand bushels of wheat this year. Such practice should be made punishable by fine and imprisonment and the very common practice of this ilk to secure for personal gain all they possibly can between vendor and purchaser should be preventable under a license system which would permit no one to do business as a real estate agent who ever departs from the straight commission agency business, and which would demand a report of all sales and a disclosure to the vendor and purchaser alike of the commission charged.

J. B. MUSSELMAN.

INFANT MORTALITY IN SASK.

The question of infantile mortality, always an immensely important one, has assumed tremendously greater importance the world over since the advent of the great war, with its awful destruction of human lives, and we are entitled, and even called upon, to watch with a jealous eye any and every circumstance which may lead to the unnecessary sacrifice of infant life in this Western land. Whilst doing this, however, we must guard against any tendency to become stampeded by alarmist statements into the belief that matters are worse than they are. On this account we have thought it well to insert the following paragraphs from the Public Service Monthly giving the figures compiled by the commissioner of public health for the province.

At the same time the comparison made with the older countries is hardly fair. England is a densely populated country. The nation is essentially a nation of manufacturers, and its people are town dwellers living and working under conditions essentially different from those on the prairie with its immense breathing space and abundant sunshine, and this great difference ought to tell even more in favor of Saskatchewan than the statistics show. However, we com-

mend these figures to the attention of our members. The article in question is as follows:—

"In an address delivered before the Round Table Club of the First Baptist Church in Regina, Dr. Seymour, commissioner of public health, gave some interesting facts and figures regarding infant mortality in this province. On more than one occasion statements have been made on public platforms and subsequently reported in the press, which would imply that, as compared with other countries, Saskatchewan has been experiencing an abnormally high rate, whereas the very reverse is the case.

"In order that such an erroneous impression may be dissipated the following figures have been compiled, which, while they reveal a death rate high enough to arouse the concern of every well-wisher of the province, compare more than favorably with much older countries.

"Deaths in the province under one year of age during 1916, exclusive of still-births, numbered 1,470. This is a death rate per 100,000 of the population of 105.5, and a death rate per 1,000 births of 76.3. In England and Wales, during the year 1915, the infant mortality rate under one year of age was per 1,000 births, 110, whilst according to press reports, the rate in the United States during 1913, of children under one year of age was, per 1,000 births, 124. From the foregoing figures it can readily be seen that compared with other countries the infant mortality rate in this province is very low. It is 33.7 lower than England and Wales, and 47.7 lower than in the United States.

"The following comparisons in reference to infant mortality in this province in the urban and rural sections, reveal certain facts that people generally have not been recognizing. In the year 1916 there were reported the following number of deaths under five years of age in the several municipalities: Cities, 640; death rate per 1,000 births, 228.5. Towns, 226; death rate per 1,000 births, 150.7. Villages, 239; death rate per 1,000 births, 126. Rural municipalities, 1,138; death rate per 1,000 births, 89.08. So that in spite of the splendid hospital accommodation afforded by the cities, with up-to-date medical attendance and trained nurses available, the infant mortality in the rural parts of this province is 139.42 lower than in the cities.

"During the year 1916, there were 65 deaths reported through child-birth. In the cities there were 11 deaths from this cause, or 10.8 per 100,000 of the population; in the towns 8 deaths, or 14.0 per 100,000; in the villages, 7 deaths or 13.5 per 100,000; in the rural municipalities, 39 deaths, or 7.7 per 100,000. So that as in infant mortality, the lowest death rate from this cause is in the rural municipalities."

SPECIAL STUDY COURSE—A CORRECTION

A statement was made in last week's issue of The Guide to the effect that it was hoped a training course for organizers would be arranged in Regina about the latter end of June. It appears, however, that there has been some little misunderstanding in regard to this matter, as the executive do not see their way clear to sanction such a course just at the present time.

UNA GRAIN GROWERS BAND

Delegates to the recent convention at Regina will have pleasant recollection of the visit of the Una band, which rendered such excellent service, and we have pleasure in presenting on this page a picture of the band, and also an account of its rise and progress.

The Una Band was organized in North Dakota, in the early spring of 1905, by a number of young farm boys. Shortly afterwards 13 of the number fled on homesteads a little east of Willow Bunch Lake, and moved on to them in the year 1907. Naturally their instruments accompanied them,

for who ever heard of an enthusiastic musician leaving his instrument behind unless compelled by force of circumstances to do so. Every opportunity was taken to keep up their practice, and under the zealous leadership of Charles Rosvold, the band soon acquired a noteworthy efficiency, and every year has filled engagements at celebrations of various kinds in the surrounding villages.

In 1914 the directors of the Wayburn fair organized a contest and the Una Band was awarded first prize. During the winter of 1915-16 the band joined with Viceroy and was thus merged with the Viceroy Citizen Band. The band flourished for some time, but from various causes the Viceroy members gradually withdrew, the last of the number being drafted in January last, and leaving the band to join the colors. As the band appeared at Regina, therefore, in February last, every member was a farmer, and all but two were members of the Una local of our association. During the time they were in the city the Regina Exhibition Board gave them an engagement to play at the fair on Farmer's Day in July next.

The Band at present numbers only 18 players. All but two of the number are of Norwegian parentage, but they speak English as well, if not better than their own mother tongue. In thought and action they are Canadians, and that by choice, and Canada has no more law-abiding citizens than they. We shall be glad to renew acquaintance with them at future conventions of the association.

PATRIOTIC CONTRIBUTIONS

We have pleasure in giving publicity to the following contributions to the Red Cross Fund, namely: Airlie G.G.A., \$36; Cardell G.G.A., \$140. The latter is especially meritorious, the sum of \$140 being made up as follows: Calf donated by J. H. Bowyer, realised \$61.50; colt donated by J. W. Bowyer, also realised \$61.50. In addition there was a party given by Mrs. P. Meggitt, which realised \$12; and a donation of \$5.00 by D. Bowyer, making up \$140 as before stated.

In addition to this we have also received the following for the Y.M.C.A. Overseas Fund: Frohisher G.G.A., \$55.40; Rayside G.G.A., \$10; Shaunavon W.G.G.A., \$9.70. The following was received for the Red Cross: Glenelles G.G.A., \$62; Hawood G.G.A., \$11.

We have also received the following letters to which we are pleased to give publicity, viz:—

Responding to the appeal made by the Red Cross Society for an effort to raise funds, The Cambria Grain Growers, co-operating with the Lac Qui Parle Lutheran Congregation of Hanson, held an oyster dinner in connection with a literary program in the Congregational Church on the 15th inst. The snug sum of \$71.45 was realised, which I beg to turn over to the Central for its delivery to the proper officers of the Red Cross.—Alberta Sward, secretary, Cambria G.G.A.

Enclosed is a money order for \$70 for the Red Cross Fund. This fund was raised by an entertainment given by the Prairie Star local on the evening of the 22nd inst. A well arranged program consisting of recitations by the school children, songs, music and dialogues by the older people was rendered to a large and satisfied audience, after which those who wished danced to their hearts content until long into the small hours of the morning. We hope to have many more such evenings in the future.—C. H. English, secretary, Prairie Star Local.

APPRECIATES CONTRIBUTIONS

The following letter of appreciation has just come to hand from the Saskatchewan branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society:—

Once again this society begs to extend to your organization our heartiest thanks for further generous assistance in our work. Your cheque for \$1,749.40 is received with the heartiest sense of appreciation of the effort which it represents among your various locals. I enclose official receipt and would ask you to extend as generally as possible this message of thanks.

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